

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend claims 1 and 3 as set forth below.

Please add new claims 5 and 6 as set forth below.

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A catalyst for purifying exhaust gas, which reduces nitrogen oxides in an exhaust gas containing excessive oxygen under the existence of methanol and/or dimethyl ether, ~~characterized in that said~~ wherein the catalyst comprises consists of a proton type  $\beta$  zeolite.

Claim 2 (Original): A catalyst for purifying exhaust gas according to claim 1, characterized in that a  $\text{SiO}_2/\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  molar ratio of the proton type  $\beta$  zeolite is within 20-70.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A method of purifying exhaust gas, wherein said method includes ~~reducing/removing~~ removing nitrogen oxides in the exhaust gas containing excessive oxygen therein, ~~under the existence of methanol and/or dimethyl ether as reducing agent by making~~ comprising contacting the exhaust gas contact with a catalyst consisting of a proton types type  $\beta$  zeolite catalyst in the presence of methanol and/or dimethyl ether as reducing agent.

Claim 4 (Original): A method of purifying exhaust gas according to claim 3, characterized in that a  $\text{SiO}_2/\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  molar ratio of the proton type  $\beta$  zeolite is within 20-70.

Claim 5 (New): A method of purifying exhaust gas, wherein said method removes nitrogen oxides in the exhaust gas containing excessive oxygen therein, comprising contacting the exhaust gas with a catalyst in the presence of methanol and/or dimethyl ether as reducing agent, wherein the catalyst comprises a proton type  $\beta$  zeolite catalyst having a  $\text{SiO}_2/\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  molar ratio within 20-70.

Claim 6 (New): A method of purifying exhaust gas, wherein said method removes nitrogen oxides in the exhaust gas containing excessive oxygen therein, comprising contacting the exhaust gas with a catalyst in the presence of dimethyl ether as reducing agent, wherein the catalyst comprises a proton type  $\beta$  zeolite catalyst.